

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A mounting bracket for mounting a high voltage surge arrester to a power distribution system, comprising:

a main body having a first end securable to the high voltage surge arrester, having ~~and~~ an opposite second end securable to a bracket of a power distribution system and having a plurality of laterally extending weathersheds located between said first and second ends, said second end including a fastening hole that receives a fastener for attaching said second end to the power distribution system bracket, ~~and~~ said main body being formed of polymer plastic blend; and

an inner rigid rod extending substantially an entire length of said main body, said inner rigid rod including a fastening hole aligned with said fastening hole of said main body for receiving said fastener.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A mounting bracket according to claim 1, wherein said inner rigid rod is formed of fiberglass.

5. (new) A mounting bracket according to claim 1, wherein said inner rigid rod is a single, unitary member.

6. (new) A mounting bracket according to claim 1, further comprising a body portion having a substantially cylindrical wall with opposing first and second ends forming an inner cavity therebetween extending laterally from said first end of said main body.

7. (new) A mounting bracket according to claim 6, wherein the body portion and the bracket portion are a one-piece unitary member.